

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly cancel claims 2-6, 10-14 and 19-29, and rewrite claims 1, 7 and 9 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A flame-retardant material ~~used for ensuring a target object,~~
~~which mainly comprises~~ comprising a polymer material[,]
~~having a flame retardant retardancy as~~
~~being~~ dispersed therein or immobilized on the surface thereof,

wherein the flame-retardant ~~material~~ contains:

(a) a metal-free group expressed as N_xO_y (where, x and y are ~~natural numbers~~ positive integers) comprising a compound selected from the group consisting of non-metallic nitric acid compound, non-metallic nitrous acid compound and non-metallic hyponitrous acid compound;

and

(b) a group capable of generating water upon heating.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The flame-retardant material according to Claim 1, wherein the group capable of generating water upon heating ~~is contained in a form of~~ comprises a hydroxyl-group-containing compound.

8. (Original) The flame-retardant material according to Claim 7, wherein the hydroxyl-group-containing compound is a metal hydroxide.

9. (Currently Amended) The flame-retardant material according to Claim 8, wherein the metal hydroxide ~~mainly~~ comprises ~~any~~ a compound selected from the group consisting of aluminum hydroxide, magnesium hydroxide and calcium hydroxide.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Withdrawn) A flame-retardant polymer material having a matrix comprising a polymer material having dispersed therein a flame-retardant material which contains a group expressed as N_xO_y (where, x and y are natural numbers) and a group capable of generating water upon heating.

16. (Withdrawn) A flame-retardant polymer material having a matrix comprising a polymer material having immobilized on the surface thereof a flame-retardant material which contains a group expressed as N_xO_y (where, x and y are natural numbers) and a group capable of generating water upon heating.

17. (Withdrawn) A flame-retardant polymer material having a matrix comprising a polymer material having dispersed therein a flame-retardant material which contains a compound selected from the group consisting of nitric acid compound, nitrous acid compound and hyponitrous acid compound, together with a hydroxyl-group-containing compound.

18. (Withdrawn) A flame-retardant polymer material having a matrix comprising a polymer material having immobilized on the surface thereof a flame-retardant material which contains a compound selected from the group consisting of nitric acid compound, nitrous acid compound and hyponitrous acid compound, together with a hydroxyl-group-containing compound.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Withdrawn) A flame-retardant polymer material mainly comprising a polymer component, wherein such flame-retardant polymer material shows in a spectrum of TDS analysis (thermal decomposition spectroscopy) *in vacuo* a peak attributable to a combustion-related gas component generated within a combustion temperature range of the polymer component, and a peak attributable to a combustion-inhibitory gas component containing at least a group expressed by CO_x (x is a natural number) and generated within a temperature range lower than the combustion temperature range of the polymer component.

31. (Withdrawn) A flame-retardant polymer material mainly comprising a polymer component, wherein such flame-retardant polymer material shows a spectrum of TDS analysis (thermal decomposition spectroscopy) *in vacuo* in which

a peak profile attributable to a combustible gas component generated by decomposition reaction of the polymer component; and

a peak profile attributable to a non-combustible gas component generated as a decomposition product of the polymer component within a temperature range lower than that responsible for the start of the generation of such combustible gas component.

Kindly add new claims 32-37 as follows:

32. (New) The flame-retardant material according to Claim 1, wherein the group expressed as N_xO_y (where, x and y are positive integers) comprises ammonium nitrate, and the group capable of generating water upon heating comprises aluminum hydroxide.

33. (New) The flame-retardant material according to Claim 1, wherein the group expressed as N_xO_y (where, x and y are positive integers) comprises ammonium nitrate, and the group capable of generating water upon heating comprises magnesium hydroxide.

34. (New) The flame-retardant material according to Claim 1, wherein the metal-free group expressed as N_xO_y comprises 0.1 to 50 weight parts of the flame-retardant material added to 100 weight parts of the polymer material.

35. (New) The flame-retardant material according to Claim 1, wherein the group capable of generating water upon heating comprises 10 to 100 weight parts of the flame-retardant material added to 100 weight parts of the polymer material.

36. (New) The flame-retardant material according to Claim 1, wherein the metal-free group expressed as N_xO_y comprises 1 to 20 weight parts of the flame-retardant material added to 100 weight parts of the polymer material.

37. (New) The flame-retardant material according to Claim 1, wherein the group capable of generating water upon heating comprises 30 to 70 weight parts of the flame-retardant material added to 100 weight parts of the polymer material.